



A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

for

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R I V E R B L Y T H P O R T H E A L T H A U T H O R I T Y



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RIVER BLYTH PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Port Medical Officer of Health

for the YEAR 1972

93 Bondicar Terrace,
BLYTH,
Northumberland.

January, 1973.

To the Chairman and Members of the
River Blyth Port Health Authority.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Once again it is my privilege to place before you the Annual Report on the work of the Port Health Administration for the Port of Blyth, for the year 1972.

As in preceding years this report is presented in accordance with the instructions issued by the Minister of Health - Form Port 20, and Circular 33/52. Detailed information will be found in the Sections I to XVI.

The total number of vessels which arrived during the year was 1,365 including Fishing Vessels. This is slightly below last year's figure. Foreign Vessels trading Foreign and Coastwise numbered 205 including Fishing Vessels, which is a decrease on last year. The number of arrivals direct from Foreign Ports was substantially the same.

The amount of Coal and Coke shipped from the Port during the year was 1,813,463 tonnes, this also included Bunker Coal.

There has been a slight increase in the amount and variety of imports from Foreign Ports.

Imports discharged at the Port were: Timber 27,755 tonnes, Gravel 92,128 tonnes, Fuel Oil 195,464 tonnes, Pig Iron 3,296 tonnes, Fertiliser 1,245 tonnes, Paper 44,835 tonnes, Sand 729 tonnes, Aluminium 4,113 tonnes, Iron and Steel Manufactures 1,797 tonnes, Alumina 13,711 tonnes, Petroleum Coke 13,907 tonnes, Cryolite and Fluoride 3,189 tonnes, Telegraph Poles 3,790 tonnes, Maize 6,186 tonnes, Fish 2,659 tonnes, Salt 7,269 tonnes, Wheat 2,986 tonnes and Sundries 24 tonnes.

PUBLIC HEALTH (SHIPS) REGULATIONS, 1970

The above Regulations became operative from the 1st January, 1971, and deal with the Infectious Diseases, now to be known as Quarantinable Diseases, Sanitary Control of ships and persons, Deratting Certificates etc. Certificates issued will be found in the appropriate tables.

INSPECTION OF VESSELS

The work of dealing with nuisances and defects (Structural and otherwise) will be found in the appropriate tables included in the Report.

I again record with pleasure the kind assistance received from time to time from the Blyth Harbour Commission, River Pilots, H.M. Customs Officers, Immigration Officer, also the Board of Trade for their kind help and co-operation with the staff of the Port Health Authority.

R.J.P.R. Campbell, M.B., Ch.B.

Medical Officer of Health.

RIVER BLYTH PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

MEMBERS OF THE AUTHORITY AT 31st DECEMBER 1972

CHAIRMAN: Alderman Mrs. L.M. Summers

VICE CHAIRMAN: Councillor J. Haig

Alderman E. Breadin.

Councillor A. R. Hancock.

Alderman J. Hudspith.

Councillor M. A. McGuckin.

Alderman Mrs. M. Purves.

Councillor R. Milburn.

Alderman J. Tweddle.

Councillor J. Mounsey.

Councillor G. Colpitts.

Councillor J. E. Teasdale.

SECTION I - STAFF

Table A

Name of Officer	Nature of Appointment	Date of Appointment	Qualifications	Any other Appointment held
Miss L. Owen	Clerk to the Authority	11th Sept., 1960	A.C.I.S.	Town Clerk's Staff
Dr. R.J.P.R. Campbell	Medical Officer of Health	1st October, 1949	M.B., Ch.B.	Borough of Blyth General Practice
Dr. R. Craig	Deputy Medical Officer of Health	1st April, 1957	M.B., Ch.B.	General Practice
		Resigned 24th March, 1972		
Dr. J.I. Adam	Deputy Medical Officer of Health	25th March, 1972	M.B., Ch.B.	General Practice
Mr. Norman F. Godfrey	Public Health Inspector	1st February, 1957	Public Health Inspectors' Certificate R.S.I. Meat and Food Cert. R.S.I.	None
Mr. Robert H. Cramp	Rodent Officer	11th January, 1952		None
Miss M. Walker	Office Clerk	1st March, 1965		None

Dr. R.J.P.R. Campbell's address: 93 Bondicar Terrace, Blyth, Northumberland.
Telephone No. BLYTH 3226.

SECTION II

Amount of Shipping entering the District during the year

Table B

Ships from	Number	Tonnage	Number Inspected		Number of Ships reported as having or having had during the voyage Infectious Diseases on board
			M.O.H.	By the Public Health Inspector	
Foreign Ports	157	97,478	33	157	-
Coastwise Ports	1,073	856,518	42	1,073	-
TOTALS:	1,230	953,996	75	1,230	-

FISHING VESSELS	No.	Tonnage
Foreign	2	138
Coastwise	133	5,082

CREWS

Foreign	Coastwise	Fishing	Total
1,726	11,978	694	14,398

SECTION III

Character of Shipping and Trade during the year

Table C

		British	Alien	Common-wealth
Passenger Traffic	Number of Passengers INWARDS	14	65	1
	Number of Passengers OUTWARDS	19	75	Nil
	Passengers on Temporary Shore Leave	Nil	Nil	Nil

There is no regular passenger traffic at this Port (see table for Aliens).

Cargo Traffic	Principal Imports	Timber	..	..	..	..	27,755	tonnes
		Gravel	..	..	..	..	92,128	"
		Fuel Oil	..	..	..	..	195,464	"
		Pig Iron	..	..	..	..	3,296	"
		Fertiliser	..	..	..	..	1,245	"
		Paper	..	..	..	..	44,835	"
		Sand	..	..	..	..	729	"
		Aluminium	..	..	..	..	4,113	"
		Iron and Steel Manufactures	..	..	..	..	1,797	"
		Alumina	..	..	..	..	13,711	"
		Petroleum Coke	..	..	..	..	13,907	"
		Cryolite and Fluoride	..	..	..	..	3,189	"
		Telegraph Poles	..	..	..	..	3,790	"
		Maize	..	..	..	..	6,186	"
		Fish	..	..	..	..	2,659	"
		Salt	..	..	..	..	7,269	"
		Wheat	..	..	..	..	2,986	"
		Sundries	..	..	..	..	24	"
	Principal Exports	Coal	..	..	..	..	1,813,463	"
		Provisions	..	..	..	..	1,105	"
		Iron and Steel Manufactures	..	..	..	..	185	"
		Scrap Iron	..	..	..	..	14,923	"
		Graphite	..	..	..	..	1,654	"
		Barley	..	..	..	..	2,273	"
		Sundries	..	..	..	..	3,237	"

Fish landed was valued at £261,556.

Principal Ports from which Ships arrive:-

FOREIGN PORTS

BELGIUM	..	Antwerp, Chent.
CANADA	..	Montreal.
CYPRUS	..	Famagusta.
DENMARK	..	Aalborg, Aarhus, Copenhagen, Esbjerg, Odense, Tarbek.
FAEROES	..	Larvik, Torshavn.
FINLAND	..	Hamina, Helsinki, Kemi, Kotka, Kristinestad, Lovisa, Mantyluoto.
FRANCE	..	Caen, Rouen.
GERMANY	..	Bremen, Cuxhaven, Duisberg, Dusseldorf, Emden, Hamburg.
GREECE	..	Piraeus.
HOLLAND	..	Amsterdam, Delfzyl, Dordrecht, Groningen, Harlingen, Rotterdam, Terneuzen, Ymuiden, Zaandam.
ICELAND	..	Reykjavik.
ITALY	..	Port Maghera, Venice.
NORWAY	..	Aardalstanger, Bergen, Haugesund, Mo-i-Rana, Odda, Oslo.
PANAMA	..	Colon.
PORTUGAL	..	Aviero, Montseras.
POLAND	..	Gdansk.
SPAIN	..	Cartagena, Passajes.
SWEDEN	..	Ahus, Ala, Falkenberg, Gefle, Goteborg, Gruvon, Halmstad, Karlstad, Kristinehamn, Skoghall, Skogland, Uddevalla, Vargon.
U.S.A.	..	Miami, New Orleans, Orange.
WEST INDIES	..	Port Esquivel.

SECTION IV

Inland Barge Traffic

There is no barge traffic at the Port.

SECTION V

Water Supply

Samples have been taken regularly from points on the West Staithes, North and South Sides and South Harbour. Of the 79 samples taken from the Port only

one was found to be unsatisfactory. All samples submitted from ships during the year were found to be satisfactory. In all cases where unsatisfactory reports have been received remedial measures have been taken and check samples taken later have shown to be satisfactory.

SECTION VI

Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1970

No change.

SECTION VII

Smallpox

1. The Northern Regional Hospitals Board have made arrangements for the admission of Smallpox cases to the Langley Park Isolation Hospital, Co. Durham (Telephone No.: Chester-le-Street 3207). The Doctor in Charge of the hospital will be Dr. Gavin Millar, of Green Ridge, Farnley Mount, Durham. His Telephone No. is 2395.

2. The Northumberland County Council are responsible for the ambulance service. Dr. A. Donaldson, the Medical Officer for the Blyth and Bedlington Authorities, is responsible for the vaccinal state of the ambulance crews.

3. NAME OF SMALLPOX CONSULTANTS AVAILABLE:-

Dr. Wilson Minns,
South Rigg, Humshaugh,
Hexham.
Home Telephone No.:
Humshaugh 317.

Dr. J.R. Lauckner,
"Conamore",
Whickham Park,
Whickham,
Newcastle upon Tyne.

4. FACILITIES FOR LABORATORY DIAGNOSIS OF SMALLPOX. Laboratory facilities are provided at the General Hospital, Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, 4.

SECTION VIII

Veneral Disease

No change.

SECTION IX

Cases of notifiable and other Infectious Diseases on ships.

Table D

Category	Disease	Number of Cases during the year		Number of Ships concerned
		Passengers	Crew	
Cases landed from ships from Foreign Ports	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cases which have occurred on ships from Foreign Ports, but have been disposed of before arrival	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cases landed from other ships	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

SECTION X

Observation on the occurrence of Malaria in Ships

No cases of Malaria have been reported during the year.

SECTION XI

Measures taken against Ships infected with or suspected of Plague

1. On arrival at the Port vessels are examined and if there is any evidence of rats, notice is at once served on the Master. The Port Health Authority have their own official Rodent Operator. Particular attention is given to vessels arriving directly or indirectly from infected areas.

2. Rats when caught are examined and facilities are provided by the Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle upon Tyne, for detailed bacteriological examination of any specimens when necessary.

3. For some years now there has been no instance of a major infestation of rats on any vessel to the extent of requiring wholesale fumigation. If any such instance occurred, the shipping agents would arrange for the fumigation to be carried out by one of the approved firms mentioned below. The whole process would be supervised by Officers of the Authority.

In the case of fumigation by Hydrogen Cyanide or Methyl Bromide, strict precautions have to be observed to safeguard all the persons involved and the whole process carried out in accordance with the Regulations.

Contractors approved for the carrying out of the above services in the Port are:-

Messrs. Contra Pest Services Ltd.,
15 Bewick Street,
South Shields

Messrs. Rentokil Laboratories Ltd.,
72 New Garden Street,
South Shields.

Telephone No.: South Shields 63388.

Telephone No.: South Shields 4921.

4. In the construction of modern vessels considerable progress has been made in the provision of rat-proof compartments. Bulkheads and partitions are usually steel, and the minimum of timber, it is difficult for rodents to find harbourage. Modern Naval Architecture is coping with the problem satisfactorily.

Table E
Rodents destroyed during the year in Ships from Foreign Ports

Category							Number
Black Rats	-
Brown Rats	-
Species not known	-
Sent for examination	-
Infected with Plague	-

The total number of brown rats recovered from the Quayside after poison baits have been put down was 308.

All rats recovered are examined and where any abnormalities are noted are sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle upon Tyne, for further detailed examination.

Table F
Deratting Certificates and Deratting Exemption Certificates issued during the year 1972 for Ships from Foreign Ports

No. of Deratting Certificates issued					Number of Deratting Exemption Certificates issued	Total Certificates issued
After Fumigation with HCN	Other Fumigant (state method)	After Trapping	After Poisoning	Total		
-	-	-	-	-	8	8

Deratting Certificates and Deratting Exemption Certificates issued during the year 1972

Gross Tonnage	No. of Ships	N-.of Deratting Certificates issued				Number of Deratting Exemption Certificates issued	Certificates issued Total
		After Fumigation with			After Trapping, Poisoning etc.		
		HCN	Sulphur	HCN and Sulphur			
Ships up to 300 tons	4	-	-	-	-	4	4
Ships from 301 tons to 1,000 tons	14	-	-	-	-	14	14
Ships from 1,001 tons to 3,00 tons ..	14	-	-	-	-	14	14
Ships from 3,001 tons to 10,000 tons ..	10	-	-	-	-	10	10
Ships over 10,000 tons	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	42	-	-	-	-	42	42

SECTION XIII

Inspection of Ships for Nuisances

Table G

Inspection and Notices

Nature and Number of Inspections			Notices Served		Result of Serving Notices
			Statutory Notices	Other Notices	
Routine Inspections ..	S/S	62	Nil	30	Defects remedied
Do. ..	M/V	1,168	Nil	90	Do.
Do. ..	F/V	135	Nil	-	Do.
TOTAL ..		1,365	Nil	120	Do.

SECTION XIV

Public Health (Sheel-fish Regulations) 1934 and 1948

No change.

SECTION XV

Medical Inspection of Aliens

This is not an approved Port for the landing or inspection of Aliens.

The number of Aliens who arrived at the Port was 65 (see Table C, Section III).

SECTION XVI

Miscellaneous

Mortuary - No change.

Food Inspection -

Food stuffs are not normally imported in the Port in any large quantities but during the year the M.V. "Tavastland" arrived in Port indirectly from Canada for breaking up at Hughes Bolckows Limited. The vessel was carrying stores for several months and as this could not be transferred to a vessel of the same Company all the foodstuffs had to be dealt with under the Imported Food Regulations before being landed. Particular attention was paid to meat and meat products and other items requiring Official Certificates. The destruction of the rejected items, failing to meet the official requirements, was carried out on the spot under the supervision of the Public Health Inspector. After clearance by H.M. Customs and Excise and consultation with the Animal Health Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food the remaining foodstuffs were allowed to be landed.

The total amount of food inspected was: 7,500 lbs.

Meat and Meat Products inspected was: 1,077 lbs.

Meat and Meat Products destroyed was: 308 lbs.

Alcan (U.K.) Limited -

As yet the Alcan Smelter Plant at Lynemouth is not under full production and during the year there were only two cargoes of Alumina and four of Petrol Coke.

A certain amount of nuisance was created in the early stages during the discharge of Alumina. This issue was taken up by the Authority with the Firm and after modifications to the plant the nuisance was reduced to an acceptable minimum.

NATIONALITIES OF SHIPS

British	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,027
Canadian	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Danish	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Dutch	..	..	..	..	..	..	58
Faroese	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Finnish	..	..	..	..	..	..	22
German	..	..	..	..	..	..	60
Italian	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Liberian	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Norwegian	..	..	..	..	..	..	25
Swedish	..	..	..	..	..	..	11

1,230

FISHING VESSELS

British	..	..	..	..	..	133
Danish	..	..	..	..	..	<u>2</u>
TOTAL						<u>135</u>
Grand Total for the year						<u>1,365</u>

VESSELS BOARDED

The following table gives a list of vessels boarded during the year by the Medical Officer of Health or Public Health Inspector on account of disease on board during the voyage or whilst in Port.

All cases set out below received attention and treatment.

Date	Name of Vessels and Nationality	Where from	Rating	Sickness
21. 1.72	M.V. Spectrum (British)	Sea	Seaman	Heart Attack
4. 3.72	F.V. Ben Torc (British)	Sea	Seaman	Suspected Appendicitis
6. 3.72	M.V. Kirtondyke (British)	Gt. Yarmouth	Ch.Off.	Injury to Knee
27. 3.72	S.S. Corstream (British)	London	2nd Eng.	Nervous Breakdown
6. 4.72	M.V. Ballyrobert (British)	Larne	Seaman	Injury to Arm
14. 4.72	M.V. Gillian Everard (British)	Invergordon	Steward	Influenza
19. 5.72	M.V. Expo (Dutch)	Gunness	Seaman	Injury to Hand
30. 5.72	M.V. St. Aidan (British)	Runcorn	Seaman	Eye Infection
7. 6.72	M.V. Kilo (Dutch)	Venice	Seaman	Dental Abscess
11. 7.72	M.V. St. Colman (British)	Carrickfergus	Cook	Injury to Knee
14. 7.72	F.V. Vibek Laj (British)	Sea	Man	Died
10. 8.72	S.S. Sir Johnstone Wright (British)	London	Seaman	Influenza
10. 9.72	M.V. Ballyrobert (British)	Montrose	Master)	Influenza
			Seaman)	
16. 9.72	M.V. Brigitta (German)	Eydehaven	Seaman	Injury to Hand
9.10.72	M.V. Ballyrush (British)	Inverness	Seaman	Gastritis
20.10.72	M.V. Tridens (Dutch)	Sea	Seaman	Dental Abscess
28.10.72	M.V. Appollo (Dutch)	Rotterdam	Seaman	Scabies
20.11.72	M.V. Finnreel (Finnish)	Kotka	Seaman	Mental Breakdown
6.12.72	M.V. Blackthorn (British)	Coleraine	Seaman	Inflammation of Ear
18.12.72	M.V. Firethorn (British)	Belfast	Ch.Off.)	
			Eng.)	Influenza
			2Seamen)	
26.12.72	M.V. Stadeland (German)	Gruvon	2Seamen	Influenza

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

Prevention of Damage by Pests (Application to Shipping) Order 1951

No Rodent Control Certificates were issued during the year.

VESSELS FOUND HAVING STRUCTURAL OR SANITARY DEFECTS

		Structural Defects		Sanitary Defects		Total
		Foreign	Coastwise	Foreign	Coastwise	
British Steam	..	-	3	-	27	30
British Motor	..	-	9	4	73	86
British Sail	..	-	-	-	-	-
Foreign Steam	..	-	-	-	-	-
Foreign Motor	..	-	-	-	4	4
Foreign Sail	..	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS:	-	12	4	104	120

It was found necessary to carry out disinfestation of crews' quarters on one vessel during the year.

DEFECTS

								Work in Hand	Work Completed	Total
Fresh water systems repaired or renewed					-	6	6
Fresh water tanks cleaned and cement washed						-	10	10
Sanitary systems repaired or renewed					-	6	6
W.C.'s discharging on to quay			-	9	9
W.C.'s repaired or renewed			-	6	6
Wash hand basins repaired or renewed					-	2	2
Showers repaired or renewed			-	4	4
Central heating systems repaired				-	11	11
Crews' accommodation cleaned and painted out						-	4	4
Officers' accommodation cleaned and painted out	..							-	3	3
Galleys cleaned and painted out				-	7	7
Galley stoves repaired or renewed				-	4	4
Galley benches renewed			-	2	2
Refrigerators cleaned out or repaired					-	8	8
Food stores cleaned out			-	8	8
Scupper pipes cleared or repaired				-	3	3
Port lights repaired or renewed				-	9	9
Refuse deposited on to quay			-	12	12
Disinfestation of Crews' quarters				-	1	1
Ventilating systems repaired or renewed					-	4	4
Oil slick cleaned from vessel			-	1	1
TOTAL	-	120	120

VESSELS ARRIVING FROM INFECTED OR SUSPECTED PORTS

The following table gives the number of vessels boarded in Blyth by the Officers of the Port Health Authority on account of them coming directly or indirectly from Foreign Ports, infected or suspected of being infected with Cholera, Plague, Yellow Fever, Typhus Fever or Relapsing Fever.

	From Infected Ports to Blyth		From Suspected Ports to Blyth		Total
	Direct	Indirect	Direct	Indirect	
January	-	-	-	-	-
February	-	-	-	-	-
March	-	-	-	-	-
April	-	-	-	-	-
May	-	-	-	-	-
June	-	-	-	-	-
July	-	-	-	-	-
August	-	-	-	-	-
September	-	-	-	-	-
October	-	-	-	-	-
November	-	-	-	-	-
December	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS:-	-	-	-	-	-

FOOD INSPECTION

The Principal Acts of Parliament and the Regulations affecting the work of the Authority are:-

Local Government Act, 1933.

Public Health Act, 1936.

Public Health Officers (Port Health Districts) Regulations, 1959.

Merchant Shipping (Crew Accommodation) Regulations, 1953.

Dangerous Drugs Regulations, 1964.

Public Health (Imported Milk) Regulations, 1926.

Preservatives in Food Regulations, 1962.
Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924 - 1952.
Food and Drugs Act, 1955.
Antioxidant in Food Regulations, 1958 - 1966.
Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1970.
Food Hygiene (Docks, Carriers, etc.) Regulations, 1960.
Colouring Matter in Food Regulations, 1957 - 1966.
Arsenic in Food Regulations, 1959 - 1960.
Fluorine in Food Regulations, 1959.
Labelling of Food Order, 1953.
Lead in Food Regulations, 1961.
Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963.
Mineral Hydrocarbons in Food Regulations, 1963 - 1966.
Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1970.
Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations, 1953.
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 and 1954.
Poison Rules, 1960.
Hydrogen Cyanide (Fumigation of Ships) Regulations, 1951.
Prevention of Damage by Pests (Application to Shipping) Order, 1951.
Prevention of Damage by Pests (Application to Shipping) (Amendment No.2) Order, 1951.
The Poisons (Fluoroacetamide and Fluoroacetanilide) Rules, 1964.
Clean Air Act, 1956.
Dark Smoke (Permitted Periods) (Vessels) Regulations, 1958.
Meat (Sterilization) Regulations, 1969.
The Imported Food Regulations, 1968.

